

# **State of Alaska FY2010 Governor's Operating Budget**

## **Department of Health and Social Services Public Assistance Administration Component Budget Summary**

**Component: Public Assistance Administration**

**Contribution to Department's Mission**

Administer Public Assistance programs responsibly, accurately, and in compliance with law.

**Core Services**

- Direct, supervise and coordinate the activities of the division in planning and directing welfare administration.
- Develop and maintain public assistance program policy, procedure and state plans necessary for the operation of Denali Kid Care, Medicaid, Food Stamp, Adult Public Assistance, General Relief Assistance, Chronic and Acute Medical Assistance, Alaska Temporary Assistance, Child Care Assistance, Permanent Fund Dividend Hold Harmless, Senior Benefits, and Family Nutrition programs.
- Provide guidance in procurement, development and management of contracts and grants for community-based services, accounting, payroll and personnel supporting division activity.
- Research, interpret and transmit public assistance program information for use, by Public Assistance field offices, state and federal government and the public.
- Conduct thorough research and analysis of program data to complete required reports, and to provide factual support of management decisions for the division's various programs and activities.
- Develop the division's annual budget, legislative position papers, fiscal notes, briefing documents and budget materials on public assistance issues.
- Establish performance measures and monitor progress toward the agency's stated targets, competitive bonuses and goals.
- Assure that agency programs and contracted work services maintain reasonable balance of the provision of services, work quality and productivity.
- Maintain the Public Assistance claims unit for the recovery of overpayments received by public assistance recipients due to fraud, agency or client-caused payment errors.

FY2010 Resources Allocated to Achieve Results		
<b>FY2010 Component Budget: \$4,279,800</b>	<b>Personnel:</b>	
	Full time	29
	Part time	0
	<b>Total</b>	29

**Key Component Challenges**

- Recipients of public assistance, by definition, live in poverty. The division continues efforts to promote self-sufficiency by assisting individuals and families in planning for the future, moving off of public assistance and leaving poverty through employment. A number of families in Alaska live in highly stressful environments and are at risk of poor family outcomes. These families face continued reliance on public assistance and the potential loss of services if they are not self-sufficient before they reach their 60-month lifetime limit on temporary assistance. These families require more intensive services.
- While the Alaska Temporary Assistance Program caseload and expenditures have declined significantly since implementation in FY97, the Division of Public Assistance continues to serve working families by providing food stamp benefits, WIC, Medicaid, child care assistance, and other employment-related support services. Caseloads have grown in programs serving individuals for whom work is less likely. As Alaska's population has grown, so has the number of elderly and disabled persons needing safety net services such as Adult Public Assistance, Senior Benefits, and Medicaid.
- The Division completes the enormous workload by the exceptional dedication and productivity of our

employees. The division continues to address recruitment challenges as the workforce ages and dedicated employees with years of experience retire, or employees leave for better paying jobs, more favorable benefits or less demanding workloads. The need is particularly acute because of the complex program policies that can take six months or more of experience to effectively administer, and create high caseloads for journey level workers in the interim.

- Focus continues on timely, accurate, and effective delivery of services for needy Alaskans while responding to stricter federal program accountability requirements set for the Temporary Assistance, Food Stamp, Medicaid and Child Care Assistance programs.
- Rising energy, food, and medical costs and general economic uncertainty are causing an increase in customer service expectations and persons applying for assistance.

### **Significant Changes in Results to be Delivered in FY2010**

- Following up on legislative initiatives, the division will continue outreach to Alaska's seniors who have not yet applied for the Senior Benefit Program, and promote the availability of home heating assistance from the new Alaska Heating Assistance Program through a variety of marketing strategies.
- Increasing minimum food stamp benefits and implementation of other program provisions included in the passage of the federal Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 (the 2008 Farm Bill).
- Renaming Alaska's Food Stamp program as required by the 2008 Farm Bill. The new name for the federal program is Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).
- Streamlining access to programs for working families.
- Increased service coordination for Native families receiving benefits from Native Family Assistance Programs and technical assistance to support Tribal TANF programs.
- Implementing the Social Security Administration's new electronic payment and administrative process for collecting retroactive Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits. Retroactive SSI benefits are collected when individuals choose to receive Interim Assistance benefits while they wait for their SSI decision and agree to repay the State when SSI is approved.
- Alaska anticipates entering into contract negotiations with the successful bidder for Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) direct deposit and commercial branded debit card services through the Western States EBT Alliance procurement process.
- Developing system alternatives and cost benefit analysis for replacement of the division's Eligibility Information System (EIS).
- Training to orient front-line managers and staff to the division's Disaster Preparedness materials. Eligibility staff are almost always called upon first to provide public assistance services in a community when there is an emergency.

### **Major Component Accomplishments in 2008**

- Implemented the Senior Benefit Program in August 2007 and successfully transitioned 7,000 recipients from the former SeniorCare program. Another 2,000 applicants were determined eligible under the new program's rules, for a total of almost 9,000 seniors receiving benefits by the end of the fiscal year.
- Participated in state and department initiatives to improve social services, such as the Homelessness Ends in Alaska Advisory Team (HEAAT), the Food Coalition, and the Department of Corrections prisoner pre-release program.
- Collaborated with the Social Security Administration and community-based organizations to improve access to Social Security benefits conducted through outreach to Anchorage's homeless population.
- Worked with Food Bank of Alaska (FBA) community-based partners to provide a food stamp outreach program.
- Collaborated with FBA and the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium to continue the commodity Food Distribution program in some Alaska Native villages.
- Development and distribution of emergency preparedness materials which include the division's Disaster Plan, Disaster Response Field Guide, and emergency benefit bins for front-line staff to use in the event of a natural disaster or emergency situation.

### **Statutory and Regulatory Authority**

AS 47.05.010-.080 Public Assistance

AS 47.25.975-.990 Food Stamps  
AS 47.27.005-.990 Alaska Temporary Assistance Program  
AS 47.25.430-.615 Adult Public Assistance  
AS 47.25.120-.300 General Relief Assistance  
AS 47.45.301-.309 Senior Benefits Program  
AS 47.07.010-.900 Medicaid  
AS 43.23.075 Permanent Fund Dividend Hold Harmless  
AS 47.25.001-.095 Day Care Assistance and Child Care Grants  
AS 47.32.010-.900 Centralized Licensing and Related Administrative Procedures  
Public Law 97-35 L.I.H.E.A.P. Act of 1981  
7 AAC 44 Heating Assistance Program

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**Public Assistance Administration  
Component Financial Summary**

*All dollars shown in thousands*

	FY2008 Actuals	FY2009 Management Plan	FY2010 Governor
<b>Non-Formula Program:</b>			
<b>Component Expenditures:</b>			
71000 Personal Services	1,645.2	2,460.1	2,888.4
72000 Travel	76.0	59.4	59.4
73000 Services	483.2	1,139.0	1,185.9
74000 Commodities	49.0	26.1	26.1
75000 Capital Outlay	1.8	0.0	0.0
77000 Grants, Benefits	2.8	120.0	120.0
78000 Miscellaneous	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Expenditure Totals</b>	<b>2,258.0</b>	<b>3,804.6</b>	<b>4,279.8</b>
<b>Funding Sources:</b>			
1002 Federal Receipts	2,076.8	2,022.4	2,371.4
1003 General Fund Match	12.2	1,062.2	1,159.6
1004 General Fund Receipts	0.0	279.8	287.6
1037 General Fund / Mental Health	0.0	0.0	13.2
1061 Capital Improvement Project Receipts	0.8	272.0	279.8
1156 Receipt Supported Services	168.2	168.2	168.2
<b>Funding Totals</b>	<b>2,258.0</b>	<b>3,804.6</b>	<b>4,279.8</b>

**Estimated Revenue Collections**

Description	Master Revenue Account	FY2008 Actuals	FY2009 Management Plan	FY2010 Governor
<b>Unrestricted Revenues</b>				
None.		0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Unrestricted Total</b>		<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>Restricted Revenues</b>				
Federal Receipts	51010	2,076.8	2,022.4	2,371.4
Receipt Supported Services	51073	168.2	168.2	168.2
Capital Improvement Project Receipts	51200	0.8	272.0	279.8
<b>Restricted Total</b>		<b>2,245.8</b>	<b>2,462.6</b>	<b>2,819.4</b>
<b>Total Estimated Revenues</b>		<b>2,245.8</b>	<b>2,462.6</b>	<b>2,819.4</b>

**Summary of Component Budget Changes  
From FY2009 Management Plan to FY2010 Governor**

*All dollars shown in thousands*

	<u>General Funds</u>	<u>Federal Funds</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
<b>FY2009 Management Plan</b>	<b>1,342.0</b>	<b>2,022.4</b>	<b>440.2</b>	<b>3,804.6</b>
<b>Adjustments which will continue current level of service:</b>				
-Transfer Administrative positions/funding from DSS/Administrative Support Services	86.5	315.3	0.0	401.8
-FY2010 Wage and Health Insurance Increases for Bargaining Units with Existing Agreements	31.9	33.7	7.8	73.4
<b>FY2010 Governor</b>	<b>1,460.4</b>	<b>2,371.4</b>	<b>448.0</b>	<b>4,279.8</b>

Public Assistance Administration Personal Services Information				
Authorized Positions			Personal Services Costs	
	FY2009 Management Plan	FY2010 Governor		
Full-time	25	29	Annual Salaries	1,793,920
Part-time	0	0	COLA	74,882
Nonpermanent	0	0	Premium Pay	53,235
			Annual Benefits	980,872
			<i>Less 0.50% Vacancy Factor</i>	(14,509)
			Lump Sum Premium Pay	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>Total Personal Services</b>	<b>2,888,400</b>

Position Classification Summary					
Job Class Title	Anchorage	Fairbanks	Juneau	Others	Total
Accounting Tech II	0	0	1	0	1
Admin Operations Mgr I	0	0	1	0	1
Administrative Assistant II	0	0	1	0	1
Administrative Clerk II	0	0	2	0	2
Administrative Officer I	0	0	1	0	1
Administrative Officer II	0	0	1	0	1
Division Director	0	0	1	0	1
Elig Technician I	0	0	2	0	2
Prog Coordinator	0	0	2	0	2
Project Asst	1	0	1	0	2
Project Coord	0	0	1	0	1
Project Manager	0	0	1	0	1
Public Assist Analyst I	0	0	3	0	3
Public Assist Analyst II	0	0	3	0	3
Public Asst Fld Svcs Mgr I	1	0	0	0	1
Public Asst Prog Off	0	0	3	0	3
Research Analyst III	0	0	1	0	1
Research Analyst IV	0	0	1	0	1
Social Svcs Prog Coord	0	0	1	0	1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>29</b>